# THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

J. CARTER BROWN, Chairman

HAROLD BURSON
JOHN S. CHASE
SONDRA G. MYERS
WALTER A. NETSCH
ALAN R. NOVAK
EDWARD D. STONE, JR.

CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary



708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-566-1066


MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

MARCH 9, 1982

AM
10:00 CONVENE, 708 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D.C.

I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Dates of Next meetings: April 13, 1982
May 11, 1982

B. Approval of February 17, 1982 minutes of the Commission of Fine Arts.

II. SUBMISSION AND REVIEWS

A. Department of Interior, Letter from Secretary James Watt.

CFA 9/Mar/82-1, Design modification to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Constitution Avenue near 21st Street, N.W.

B. Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation

1. CFA 9/Mar/82-2, Pennsylvania Triangle Project, Pennsylvania Avenue, 6th Street, and Indiana Avenue, N.W. Westminster Development Corporation.

2. CFA 9/Mar/82-3, Evening Star Building, revised designs for renovation and addition, 1101 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

3. CFA 9/Mar/82-4, John Marshall Park Lighting Fixtures.

C. District of Columbia Government, Department of Housing and Community Development

1. Old Georgetown Act

a. O.G. 82-45, 1529 26th Street, N.W. Rear two-story masonry addition to frame house.

b. Appendix 1.

II. SUBMISSION AND REVIEWS CONTINUED, 9 March 1982

2. Shipstead-Luce Act

a. S.L. 82-48, 2400 N Street, N.W. Preliminary design for U.S. News and World Report Building.

b. S.L. 82-49, Embassy of Japan, proposed addition to existing Chancery Building, retention of existing landmark structure.

c. Appendix 2.

D. District of Columbia Government, Department of Community Development.

1. CFA 9/Mar/82-5 Portal Site preliminary project designs, parcels 47 and 49, between 12,14, and D Streets and Maine Avenue, S.W.

# REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN UNDER THE OLD GEORGETOWN ACT

March 9, 1982

| NO. | ADDRESS AND OWNER | PROJECT |
|---|---|---|
| O.G. 82-41<br>HPA. 82-149 | 1015 31st, Street, N.W.<br>Joseph R. Vucich | Six story office building. |

ACTION: Restudy of proposed designs alterations to previously approved plans has been agreed to by the architect prior to resubmission of working drawings for permit revision. Restudy shall include elimination of parapet on 31st Street, and restudy of 31st Street facade to more closely reflect design of alley elevation.

---

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| O.G. 82-42<br>HPA. 82-150 | 3120 N Street, N.W.<br>Milton Schneiderman | Extend roof, relocate dormer, install new garage door. |

ACTION: Issue permit for house renovation, roof addition and garage opening. Roofing materials shall match that on existing house, and brick and stone trim surrounding new garage door shall match existing in size, texture and color.

---

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| O.G. 82-43<br>HPA. 82-151 | 2806 P Street, N.W.<br>David M. & Anne R. Childs | Revision of second floors and exteriors. |

ACTION: Preliminary designs for addition to rear of house and alterations to Carriage House are approved. Architect has agreed to study restoration of original wood facade in conjunction with adjacent neighbor at 2804 P Street and resubmit a combined proposal. Final working drawings, color selection and details shall be submitted for approval by the Commission of Fine Arts prior to permit issuance.

---

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| O.G. 82-44<br>HPA. 82-157 | 2804 P Street, N.W.<br>Ellis W. Manning | 6x8 addition to existing kitchen. |

ACTION: Issue permit for rear kitchen extension as shown in plans, street facade restoration plans, color and details shall be submitted in conjunction with adjacent house owner at 2806 P Street, N.W. for approval by the Commission of Fine Arts.

---

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| O.G. 82-46<br>HPA. 82-162 | 2715 Pa. Avenue, N.W.<br>Amoco Oil Company | Install new Amoco signs on existing poles. |

ACTION: Do not issue permit. Recommend reburbishing existing sign. Proposed oversized sign with internal illumination would have an adverse impact on the historic district and Rock Creek Park. This unique and highly visible site marking the major entrance to Georgetown requires special design excellence and not a stock sign.

APPENDIX I

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN UNDER THE OLD GEORGETOWN ACT

March 9, 1982

| NO. | ADDRESS AND OWNER | PROJECTS |
|---|---|---|
| O.G. 82-49<br>HPA. 82-172 | 1600 35th Street, N.W.<br>Board of Education | Interior renovation new entry stairs, loading dock, handicap ramp, replace all windows. |

ACTION: Preliminary designs are approved subject to review and approval of final working drawings and material samples by the Commission of Fine Arts.

---

# REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN UNDER THE SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT

March 9, 1982

| NO. | ADDRESS AND OWNER | PROJECT |
|---|---|---|
| S.L. 82-42<br>HPA. 82-152 | 1201 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.<br>Riggs National Bank | Install one set of metal letters (non illiminated). |

ACTION: Issue permit for 13"-6" by 0'-9" sign having black-enamelled individually mounted metal letters as shown on drawings submitted.

---

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.L. 82-43 | 2607 Klingle Road, N.W.<br>Harris residence | New underground house. |

ACTION: Preliminary designs are approved subject to review and approval of working drawings, material samples and landscape plans by the Commission of Fine Arts. The Commission understands that the proposal has been reviewed without objection by adjacent neighbor.

---

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.L. 82-44 | 501 G Street, N.W.<br>501 G Street Assoc. | Temporary fence. |

ACTION: Approved as a temporary structure for duration of construction.

---

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.L. 82-46 | 600 Maryland Avenue, S.W.<br>Boston Properties | Install one D/F LTD. Plexiglas face display in alum. cab. 9'-0' high x 5'-4' wide grd. |

ACTION: Issue permit for free-standing, painted aluminum and acrylic sign with internal illumination. The applicant has agreed to reduce the proposed size to a height of 6'-0" and a corresponding face width of 4'-0". The proposed site will be relocated at or with 20'-0" of the existing shop entrance, and in the landscaped.

---

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.L. 82-47<br>HPA. 82-175 | 215 Pennsylvania Ave, S.E.<br>Dennis Davies | Install canopy with signs engraved into face. |

ACTION: Issue permit for 24'-0" by 4'-0" anodized aluminum marquee, having bronze-tinted plexiglas roofing domes and internally illuminated lettering, as submitted on drawings dated 1 March 1982. Existing marquee over proposed night deposit box will be restored.

---

APPENDIX II

REPORTS OF ACTIONS TAKEN UNDER THE SHIPSTEAD-LUCT ACT

March 9, 1982

| NO. | ADDRESS AND OWNER | PROJECT |
|---|---|---|
| S.L. 82-50<br>HPA. 82-183 | 1501 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.<br>American Security Bank | Remove existing cooling towers, existing windows, and clean stonework. |

ACTION: Issue permit for new bronze anodized aluminum replacement windows, removal of cooling towers and exterior duct system, installation of new cooling unit within existing penthouse, and cleaning of surface stonework according to plans submitted 2 March 1982. The Commission recommends against the incorporation or replacement of signage on the south side of building.

# THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

J. CARTER BROWN, Chairman

HAROLD BURSON
JOHN S. CHASE
SONDRA G. MYERS
WALTER A. NETSCH
ALAN R. NOVAK
EDWARD D. STONE, JR.

CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary



708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-566-1066


MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

March 9, 1982

The meeting was convened at 10:00 a.m. in the Commission of Fine Arts offices at 708 Jackson Place, N. W., Washington, D. C.

| | |
|---|---|
| Members Present: | Hon. J. Carter Brown, Chairman<br>Hon. Harold Burson<br>Hon. Sondra G. Myers<br>Hon. Alan Novak<br>Hon. Edward D. Stone, Jr. |
| Staff Present: | Mr. Charles H. Atherton, Secretary<br>Mr. Donald B. Myer, Assistant Secretary<br>Mr. Jeffrey R. Carson<br>Mrs. Sue Kohler |
| National Capital Planning Commission Staff Present: | Mr. George Evans |

I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Dates of next meetings, changed and approved as: 21 April 1982 (Wednesday)
18 May 1982

B. Minutes of meeting of 17 February 1982, approved.

II. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS

A. Department of Interior, Letter from Secretary James G. Watt

CFA 9/MAR/82-1, Design modification to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Constitution Avenue near 21st Street, N. W. The Chairman read a letter from Secretary of the Interior James G. Watt, in which the Secretary noted that his department had received a proposal from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund which would alter the design for the memorial.

the alterations to include the addition of a flagpole and a statue of a serviceman. In his letter the Secretary requested that the Commission indicate its reactions to the concept of such alterations before he gave his approval to proceed. Exhibit A

Robert Doubek from the VVMF was then introduced. He recalled the previous submissions in July, October and November 1981, as well as the enthusiasm the winning design had engendered and the many contributions that had been made. He said the VVMF had wanted this memorial to be a symbol of reconciliation, and he was saddened by the controversy that had developed and the charge that the memorial lacked elements symbolic of the sacrifices made by those who had fought. Mr. Doubek then related that at the request of the VVMF, Senator Warner had chaired a meeting bringing together the critics and others involved with the memorial, and a consensus had been reached whereby it was agreed that a flagpole and statue would be added. He said Secretary Watt had been pleased with the agreement, and Mr. Doubek said he hoped now that the Commission would give its approval to the concept so that construction could begin. He noted other organizations and individuals that had concurred with the VVMF in approving the additions, mentioning specifically the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Marine Corps League, Regina Wilk of the Gold Star Mothers, Milton Copulus of the Heritage Foundation, and Brigadier General George Price, USA (ret.). He said Mr. Copulus and the Marine Corps League had been among those feeling most strongly that the additions were needed. He said the individuals mentioned were present at the meeting, had not prepared testimony, but would answer questions.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Doubek and then, noting that there were no designs to consider, read a draft of a letter to Secretary Watt in which he said the Commission believed it would be possible to add the desired elements, but needed to see something specific before it could give any approval. The letter suggested a location for the new elements away from the granite walls. It also noted that, as Secretary Watt had said in his letter, the basic design remained unchanged; as it already had Commission approval, no further action was required by the Commission as a precondition to approval by the Secretary of the Interior.

Two of the representatives mentioned by Mr. Doubek made brief statements. Michael Mahler of the Marine Corps League stated emphatically that the sculpture should be part of the memorial, not separated from it and placed elsewhere on the site. General Price stated his opinion that the entire two acre site should be thought of as the memorial, and that the additional elements could properly be placed anywhere in this area.

The Chairman then asked for other comments from the floor. Being none, the members approved the letter and agreed unanimously that it should be sent to Secretary Watt. (A slight clarification in the final sentence was made later in the meeting and approved unanimously.)

Exhibit A-1

Mr. Doubek said he thought the letter read by the Chairman gave Secretary Watt the answer he needed, accepting the concept of a statue and flagpole at the site. The Chairman agreed that it did.

B. Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation

1. CFA 9/MAR/82-2, Pennsylvania Triangle Project; Pennsylvania Avenue, 6th Street, and Indiana Avenue, N. W. Westminster Development Corporation. The Secretary recalled that the Commission had seen this project before, in a somewhat different form, but had not been required to take any action. He said the Leo A. Daly firm had now been joined by Jacquelin Robertson Associates. Charles Gueli from PADC was then introduced and said the developer had been working with PADC for some time on design changes; it was now agreed that the design would fit well into the PADC plan and it had been approved by the advisory board. Mr. Robertson then discussed the design of this large, two-building mixed-use complex. He said he had conceived of it as background architecture and had tried to reinforce the L'Enfant Plan--the diagonal of Pennsylvania and Indiana avenues and the orthogonal grid--and to mediate between the old and new buildings and scales in the area. (The late 19th century National Bank of Washington, "Apex" building, and Atlantic Coast Line building fall within the site.) The scale of the old buildings would be emphasized by the use of a stone facing on the walls of the new buildings up to a height of 72 feet, approximately the height of the taller of the old buildings. Above this the design would change, reflecting a contemporary idiom. The building behind the National Bank of Washington, bounded by Indiana Avenue, 6th and C Streets, would be fourteen stories high; it would be devoted to hotel and apartment use, with retail on the ground floor. The residential units at the top would step back vertically to provide views of Pennsylvania Avenue. The building fronting on Pennsylvania Avenue, behind the "Apex" building, would be lower; nine stories in height, with three setbacks from the avenue, the first beginning at the cornice line of the Atlantic Coast Line building on the corner of 6th and Pennsylvania. This would be an office building with retail on the ground floor. The housing building would have an atrium, and both structures featured an arcade along the C Street axis, with the place of the street being taken by a garden linking the two buildings. The GAR and Temperance monuments would be relocated along this axis, with the larger GAR monument placed near 7th Street, and the other at the crossing of the north-south axis, in front of the gates to be placed at the garden entrance. There would also be planting between the bank and "Apex" buildings. Pavers for walks and plaza areas would be the same as those used on the avenue. Laurin Olin described these open space aspects of the project.

The Chairman thought this scheme an improvement over the one seen previously in that the mass had been broken up and some garden space provided; however, he and the other members were concerned that the

garden might not receive enough light and would be unpleasant to be in. Mr. Robertson did not think this would be a problem because of the east-west orientation, but he said he would make some studies. He noted also that the arcades would be two stories (20 feet) high and so would not be oppressive. The Chairman also commented on the limestone facades planned for the lower half of the new buildings, saying that there would have to be enough plasticity and three dimensional character to the stonework to avoid the effect of a pasted-on veneer. Mr. Robertson said the windows would be deeply recessed, the joints between the stones strongly articulated, and the heavy banding of the Atlantic Coast Line building repeated, expressly to avoid the "pasted-on" look. The blandness of the upper parts of the new buildings also concerned the Chairman; he noted that they were not the same height and thought that because of this assymmetry and their different functions, a different facade treatment for each might be helpful in relieving the blandness, especially when seen from Market Square and the western section of Pennsylvania Avenue, where the facades have no setbacks to give variety. Mr. Novak was also concerned about the character of these upper floors, as well as the quality of light in the garden. Mr. Robertson commented on the facades, saying that as seen in the drawings and model, they were only schematic and would be worked out in more detail for presentation later. The members then unanimously approved the concept, with the stipulation that more detailed facade drawings and sunlight studies for the garden area must be submitted. Exhibit B

2. CFA 9/MAR/82-3, Evening Star Building, revised designs for renovation and addition, 1101 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W. The Assistant Secretary noted the previous submissions in December 1981 and February 1982, recalling the request in February for further study of the curved corner on Pennsylvania Avenue and the expression of the joint between the old and new buildings. He introduced Jerald Karn from Harry Weese and Associates who reported that various studies had been made and that the recommendation now was for a tight curve at the corner, a slight change in color between the two buildings, and an emphatic notch and setback to differentiate them. To meet the Chairman's concern about the lack of vertical emphasis, Mr. Karn said special window and balcony elements would be added to the curved corner, the arcade glazing would be set back and the entrance heightened by including a lunette window in the floor above. He showed drawings depicting these changes. All thought the building much improved and the design was unanimously approved. Exhibit C

3. CFA 9/MAR/82-1, John Marshall Park, lighting fixtures. Staff member Jeffrey Carson reviewed the disapproval of the light fixtures originally proposed for the park, and the inspection of two others at a mock-up. Those members present at the mock-up had preferred the lantern type fixture shown. The other members had seen catalogue cuts of the two fixtures and had also preferred the lantern. The decision to approve the lantern was confirmed at this meeting. Exhibit D

C. District of Columbia Government, Department of Housing and Community Development.

1. Old Georgetown Act

a. O.G. 82-45, 1529 26th Street, N. W., rear two-story masonry addition to frame house. Mr. Carson showed the members photographs of this row of small frame houses, built c.1860. A brick extension had already been added to the rear of one of them, but he said the Georgetown Board had denied the request for another, not on the basis of design, but because of the effect it would have on the garden next door and because of the precedent it would set for additions to other small houses. The Secretary commented that the character of Georgetown was dependent on these small houses, and said that numerous additions could detract from this character. The Chairman said he thought a site inspection was necessary. (After the meeting the members looked at the houses and decided that a frame, rather than masonry, addition could be allowed given the specific streetscape in that location. The members agreed that such decisions must be made on a case-by-case basis, and this should not be taken as a precedent by future applicants.)

b. Appendix 1, approved.

2. Shipstead-Luce Act

a. S.L. 82-48, 2400 N Street, N. W., Preliminary design for U. S. News and World Report Building. The Assistant Secretary reviewed the previous submission and the request for more detail as the structures were designed. He introduced architect David Childs from Skidmore, Owings and Merrill who first pointed out on a site plan seen previously the use of half circle plazas, rather than "T" shaped intersections at 24th and M Streets and again at 24th and N. He located the site for the first building to be constructed in the project, the headquarters for U. S. News and World Report at 24th and N Streets, on one of the quadrants of the plaza. The building would be cut out to follow this curve and would have a "head", consisting of the 24th Street facade, the curved plaza section, and a length on N Street equal to the 24th Street facade. The "body" of the building would then extend further along N Street with a slightly different facade treatment. Height would be 90 feet. The N Street facade featured large, arcaded openings on the ground floor level with similar openings at the top. The curved plaza facade contained the entrance, which was a two-story glazed space with a loggia out in front at ground level. The penthouse was an important element in this curved section, extending out flush with the wall. Materials were expected to be limestone or cast stone with rose colored brick infill.

The Chairman cautioned against employing a long row of "cookie cutter" windows along N Street, suggesting some vertical emphasis and some

strategic use of brick infill to avoid monotony. Mr. Stone did not like th extension of the penthouse out to the edge of the curved facade. He also emphasized the importance of making the curved plazas real "places". Mr. Childs said the penthouse had been moved forward primarily for aesthetic reasons--to emphasize the importance of the entrance and to avoid giving the penthouse the appearance of a "hat". However, he said, there would also be an elevator and mechanical equipment in this space. The Chairman thought it might be improved if it were to project a bit, through the use of mouldings, thus providing some shadow interest. With these recommendations, the design was unanimously given preliminary approval.

b. S.L. 82-49, Embassy of Japan, proposed addition to existing Chancery Building, retention of existing landmark structure. The Assistant Secretary noted that the existing Embassy had been documented in theCommission's publication, Massachusetts Avenue Architecture, Volume 1. He introduced Iverson Mitchell, zoning counsel for the embassy, who introduced representatives from the embassy and then Messrs. Itabashi and Sakei, architect and landscape architect respectively, from the firm of Benham East Associates. Mr. Itabashi located the embassy building on a map, between Massachusetts Avenue and Waterside Drive, along Rock Creek Park. He outlined its history, saying the main building and the one to the east had been designed in 1931-32 by Delano and Aldrich, and that another building to the west, and a Japanese tea house and garden, had been added in 1960-62. He noted also that the main building had ceased to be the ambassador's residence in 1977. He pointed out the existing landscaping which would be retained--street trees, natural landscaping along the Rock Creek border, and plantings around the main building and courtyard. Mr. Saikei then discussed the new building. He said first that all existing buildings would be kept, and no new construction would rise above the main building; the highest part of the new building would be just over 37 feet. It would vary from one to three stories, the one-story section being along Massachusetts Avenue. A new entrance would be placed at this location, leaving the old courtyard as a ceremonial entrance to the main building. Cars will be removed from the courtyard and underground parking provided. The tea house would be moved to the far southwest corner of the site, the Japanese garden reconstructed, and the walkway leading to the teahouse heavily landscaped to screen the garden area from the new chancery. Mr. Sakei showed scale drawings of both Massachusetts Avenue and Waterside Drive that included the embassy and several properties on either side. He said 70 foot trees in Rock Creek Park would screen the new building completely in the summer and nearly so in the winter.

There were no objections to the massing or setbacks, but the Chairman drew attention to the difficulty in attempting to join the new building to the old, the danger of disturbing the symmetry of the old parti. He thought that if the same material were used (limestone) and matched closely, then the design would have to be different enough to avoid making

the new look like an extension of the old. He also commented on the tall, vertical windows in the new building, saying they might tend to produce an institutional look in this residential neighborhood, and also from the park, where they will be seen in the winter. Mr. Stone had some questions about circulation from the entrance to the parking area which were answered by Mr. Sakei. With these recommendations and cautions, the preliminary design was unanimously approved.

c. Appendix 2, approved.

D. District of Columbia Government, Department of Community Development.

1. CFA 9/MAR/82-5, Portal Site, preliminary project designs; parcels 47 and 49, between 12th, 14th and D Streets and Maine Avenue, S. W. The Secretary noted that this is the last undeveloped site in the Southwest Waterfront area and that it is dissected by the railroad tracks near the north end of the approaches to the Fourteenth Street Bridge. He introduced Larry Press from the District Government who described the selection process for a developer for this ten acre site. Five proposals had been submitted, and developer Theodore Lerner and Banneker Associates had been selected on the basis of (1) their financial capability to proceed as quickly as possible; (2) the make-up of the team and the amount of minority equity involved; and (3) the design considerations--the variety of solutions proposed for a complicated site. He said each team had selected a program based on its sense of the marketability of the site; given a hotel/office/retail requirement, they had decided what the mix would be.

Architect Vlastimil Koubek was then introduced, and in turn introduced other members of the design team: Louis Frye of Frye and Welch, Architects; and Don Olson of Sasaki Associates, Landscape Architects. Mr. Koubek first talked about the site and its position along the axis between Potomac Park and the Capitol, noting that the Jefferson Memorial is just south of this axis. He then discussed the plan, saying it had been arrived at because of the needs of the three prospective users: COMSAT, American Enterprises, and The American Association for the Advancement of Science. The result had been a scheme of seven office buildings in three groups, plus a 450 room hotel along Maine Avenue. The office buildings within the groups would have connecting atria to break up the mass. Setbacks with landscaped terraces were also features of the office buildings, in an attempt to soften the edge of the project towards the river. The railroad tracks would be covered and the space left open and landscaped, so that the Capitol vista would not be obstructed. In contrast to the rectilinear office buildings, the hotel would be curved, creating a plaza opening in the direction of Maine Avenue and the river. Material for the buildings was expected to be granite, of two different types and finishes.

The Chairman asked about the sight lines, and whether the view from the Jefferson Memorial to the Capitol would be obstructed. It was pointed out that the 10th Street Overpass already obstructs the view, and that the trusses on this structure would be removed to lessen this effect. The Secretary noted that from the memorial itself, the view of the Capitol is cut off by a group of trees, that one must go out to the edge of the Tidal Basin before the Capitol becomes visible. Mr. Koubek said that the 160 foot easement along the vista had been kept clear of buildings and that the hotel would not be on this axis. Mr. Olson talked about the site plan, the knowledge that both the diagonal avenues and the grid pattern had to be recognized, and the various schemes that had been developed, with the railroad both covered and uncovered. The Chairman had one more comment--that the hotel entrance area should be studied further to be sure that there were no left-over dark shaded areas that would make the Maine Avenue frontage unpleasant. Mr. Koubek agreed that much remained to be done; he said he would return with specific designs and facade studies, as well as materials and open space studies. There were no objections to the footprint of the buildings, or the way in which the vistas had been considered; the design concept was, therefore, unanimously approved.

Exhibit E

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Signed,

Charles H. Atherton
Secretary

# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

EXHIBIT A

February 25, 1982

Honorable J. Carter Brown
Chairman
Commission of Fine Arts
Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Department recently received the enclosed revised submission from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund outlining an altered design for the Memorial to be constructed in Constitution Gardens. The basic design is unchanged except for the addition of a flagpole and a statue of an American soldier. The precise location of the flagpole and the details regarding the sculpture have not yet been decided. These design refinements have been added in response to intense interest on the part of Members of Congress and other interested parties. The altered design submitted to me represents a compromise which may be expected to facilitate construction and dedication of a memorial to those Americans who served their country in Vietnam.

Pursuant to the statute which authorized the Memorial, the design is subject to approval by your Commission as well as the Department. I am not prepared to act on the submission of February 11 without assurances that the design improvements meet with the approval of the Commission. The compromise so carefully worked out will be for naught if the design refinements are disapproved and not constructed as part of the Memorial. Accordingly, I feel obliged to await a response from your Commission regarding the acceptability of the design and refinements before rendering my decision. Moreover, I am compelled to consult with Members of Congress before finalizing our decision.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to an early response.

Sincerely,

James G. Watt

SECRETARY

Enclosure

# THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

J. CARTER BROWN, Chairman

HAROLD BURSON — WALTER A. NETSCH
JOHN S. CHASE — ALAN R. NOVAK
SONDRA G. MYERS — EDWARD D. STONE, JR.

CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-566-1066


EXHIBIT A-1

March 9, 1982

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We have your letter of February 25, seeking the reaction of the Commission of Fine Arts to the concept of the addition on the site of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial of two elements, a staff with the American flag, and a piece of sculpture depicting a serviceman.

As a design review body, we have difficulty in rendering a judgment without a specific design to review. However, we believe it is possible to find a solution for adding those elements in such a way as to obtain the approval of the Commission of Fine Arts as required by Public Law 26-297.

The Commission has not yet had submitted to it the interpretive element that will welcome the visitor and guide those who are seeking the location of a specific name. Especially for those whose lives have been affected most by the Vietnam experience, this area will in effect serve as an entry point for visitors to the memorial. The development of this might well provide a fruitful area to examine in relation to the new elements.

The Commission reaffirms its approval for the design as approved to date. As you point out in your letter, the basic design of the memorial is unchanged. For this reason, no further approval by the Commission of Fine Arts is required as a precondition to action by the Department of the Interior. The Commission looks forward to reviewing ways in which additional elements could be designed and positioned so as not to abrogate the integrity and magnificence of the existing design concept, which it will be impossible fully to appreciate until that concept has been realized at its full and very impressive scale.

Sincerely yours,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

The Honorable
James G. Watt
Secretary
Department of the Interior
18th & C Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20240

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED • BY • CONGRESS • MAY • 17, 1910

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

EXHIBIT B

March 18, 1982

Dear Tom:

The Commission of Fine Arts reviewed preliminary designs for Westminster Development's Pennsylvania Triangle project at its meeting on March 9, 1982. The project which was presented by consulting architect Jacquelin Robertson, was given conceptual approval with one or two areas recommended for detailed study.

As you know the revised site plan has a strong element of symmetry, having buildings on either side of 'C' Street of nearly equal area and shape, although the building on the north side of the street is considerably taller. For this reason, the Commission believes there ought to be a clear difference in the facade treatment above the stone part, especially on the west elevations which face prominently toward Market Square and are always seen together. This differentiation would also be consistent with their difference in use, one being an office and the other a hotel-residential structure. I know the architect's presentation of these facades at our meeting was largely diagrammatic. However, since the other elevations were to some degree treated differently, I want to at least bring attention to the problems on the west side at this time.

Our other concern involved the apparent narrowness of 'C' Street and the character of the proposed landscaped garden that stretches the length of the two adjoining structures. If this were to be too shady, there might be a problem with the survival of the trees. Also it might not be all that pleasant a space, especially since there is a fairly deep arcade contemplated on both sides of the space. The landscape architect replied that he thought the sun coming down the street in morning and late afternoon would be sufficent for the planting to survive, and that the absence of direct sun around noon could be an asset in Washington. This may be. It would, however, be a good idea to subject the model to an analysis of the amount of direct sun in the garden, just to see what it will be like.

Overall we are delighted with the progress made in this project and look forward to meeting with the architect on further development of the details.

Sincerely yours,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Tom Regan
Pennsylvania Avenue Development
Corporation
425 13th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED · BY · CONGRESS · MAY · 17, 1910

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

EXHIBIT C

March 24, 1982

Dear Tom:

The Commission of Fine Arts was happy to give preliminary approval to the addition for the Evening Star Building at its March 9, 1982 meeting. The architects have complied with the recommendations we made on December 15, 1981 and February 17, 1982 concerning the fenestration pattern, the joint between the old and new portions, the smaller radius curve where the building turns back from Pennsylvania Avenue and the entrance flanking the Presidential Building. We feel the effort put into this has resulted in a much better design. We look forward to reviewing the working drawings and material samples as they are ready.

Sincerely,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Tom Regan
Director
Pennsylvania Avenue Development
Corporation
425 13th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED • BY • CONGRESS • MAY • 17, 1910

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

EXHIBIT D

March 24, 1982

Dear Tom:

At its meeting on March 9, 1982 the Commission of Fine Arts officially reaffirmed its recommendation in favor of the lantern-type fixture for John Marshall Park. If we can be of any further service in this matter, noting that construction is under way, feel free to call on us.

Sincerely,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Tom Regan
Director
Pennsylvania Avenue Development
Corporation
425 13th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

# THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED • BY • CONGRESS • MAY • 17, 1910

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

EXHIBIT E

March 18, 1982

Dear Mr. Moore:

The Commission of Fine Arts reviewed conceptual plans for the development of the Portal site at its meeting on March 9, 1982. This is an enormous project, as you know, so it's very difficult to register any but the most preliminary reaction. However, our general impression is that the design presented to the Commission is reasonable, and that with proper development, could be a positive addition to the southwest renewal area despite its great size.

At the present time, the one area of the design that concerns us more than any other is the view of the Capitol from West Potomac Park, particularly in the vicinity of the south rim of the Tidal Basin on the site of the proposed FDR Memorial. I know that the architect is aware of our concern and has had engineering studies of the site lines done of the dome from a number of locations, including West Potomac Park. It is an important question in this design, however, and one we want to be absolutely certain of before approving the exact elevations and configuration of the main plaza spanning the railroad tracks. The details of the surface treatment on this plaza, such as planting, lighting fixtures and heights of parapet walls will have to be watched very carefully so as to prevent any unnecessary intrusion into the view of the Capitol dome. The visual axis along Maryland Avenue provides one the great views of the Capitol and should be preserved and protected to the greatest extent possible.

We will be happy to meet with the architect as the project design develops in greater detail. Due to the great size and the similarity in massing and building types, the architect will have to focus on each individual building so as to avoid to the extent possible a ponderous institutional character.

Sincerely yours,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Robert Moore
Department of Housing and
Community Development
1133 North Capitol Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002